

Message Text

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46

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 FAA-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 RSR-01 /068 W

----- 085340

R 140705Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5549

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8177

BEIRUT FOR FAA AND RCAA

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN IN

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR FAA VISIT

1. IN AFTERMATH OF MAY 31 CRASH OF INDIAN AIRLINES BOEING 737 NEAR DELHI AIRPORT, EMBASSY HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO AVIATION SAFETY SITUATION IN INDIA. ALTHOUGH PILOT ERROR AND LAPSES OF DISCIPLINE APPEAR TO HAVE FIGURED IN MANY OF RECENT AIR CRASHES HERE, THERE HAS ALSO BEEN INFORMED CRITICISM OF NAVIGATIONAL AIDS AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. AS EXAMPLE OF MALFUNCTIONING OF LATTER, AIR INDIA PLANE CARRYING PRIME MINISTER FROM DELHI TO BOMBAY WAS RECENTLY REPORTED TO BE OUT OF RADIO CONTACT FOR ONE HOUR PERIOD WHEN FOURTH OF FOUR SYSTEMS OF GROUND TO AIR COMMUNICATIONS FAILED.

2. EMBASSY IS AWARE OF CONTINUING FAA CONCERN ABOUT ILS AT DELHI. LATTER, HOWEVER, WAS INOPERATIVE AT TIME OF 737 CRASH AND IN THIS SENSE WAS NOT A FACTOR IN ACCIDENT. HOWEVER, APPROACH PATTERN OF AIRPLANE INDICATES THAT PILOTS THOUGHT THEY WERE TO MAKE AN ILS APPROACH. THIS MISAPPREHENSION MAY HAVE DIRECTLY LED TO THE ACCIDENT. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE
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OF ILS PROBLEMS AT PRESENT. WE BELIEVE, THOUGH, THAT FACT-

FINDING VISIT BY PROFESSIONAL OBSERVER WOULD BE WARRANTED AND
USEFUL. EMBASSY PROPOSES, THEREFORE, THAT FAA REP
BURLINGAME TRAVEL TO DELHI AT HIS EARLY CONVENIENCE TO LOOK
INTO NAVAJAID AND COMMUNICATIONS SITUATION WHICH HAS OBVIOUS
RELEVANCE TO OPERATIONS HERE OF US CARRIERS. VISIT COULD INCLUDE
CALLS ON DGG AND AIRPORT OFFICIALS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION
WHICH EMBASSY ALONE NOT TECHNICALLY COMPETENT TO ELICIT OR
EVALUATE.
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Message Attributes

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